

Minutes EMS Emergency Management Committee Meeting
The Place at Innsbrook, Henrico County
July 20, 2006

Present

Bubby Bish, Governor's Advisory Board (GAB); Melinda Duncan, Northern Virginia EMS Council; Terry Herbert, Virginia Department of Emergency Management , VDEM; Mike Player, VA-1 Disaster Medical Assistant Team (DMAT) and Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators (VAGEMSA); Winnie Pennington, OEMS; Sue Maddox-Toth, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Call to order:

At 1014 AM committee chairman Bubby Bish called the meeting to order. Introductions were made for those attending the meeting for the first time.

Motion to approve May's minutes was made by Steve Ennis and minutes were approved as written.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Bish told the committee that he had nothing to report from the Advisory Board that affected the committee. He also advised that he briefed the Board on the importance of representation to the committee and that we were sending letters out to members and prospective members to encourage them to become active participants in the committee.

Member Agency Reports/Updates:

Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) – Operation

Since Jim and Karen were not able to attend Winnie give Operations report. Operations activities coming up include, the hospital move in Williamsburg, August 17, 2006; 225 Anniversary of Cornwallis's Surrender at Yorktown, October 19-22, 2006; America's Anniversary (The founding of Jamestown), May 11-13, 2007; and possible deployment to a yet to be determined Oceana Air Show. All of these are actual and potential deployments for elements of the HMERT.

Posting will end Friday, July 21, 2006, for the new positions in Operations. These would be for the new HMERT Coordinator, and an administrative position. Interviews will be hopefully held in August.

Karen sent a reminder to the committee that it had until August 1 to add the NIMS slide the MCI material before it goes to the printer.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) –

Sue Maddox-Toth reported that she had checked on the feasibility of using the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry for emergency vehicles during lane reversal and evacuation of Tidewater and Hampton Roads and was told that the Ferry was already tasked with other jobs for the Commonwealth during emergencies. She was also told to suggest that EMS and Fire look to possible contracting with private Ferry services if they thought it was necessary. She reported that the “evacuation gates” on I 64 are proceeding as scheduled. Sue also reported that VDOT has completed contracts to assist with towing, water and gas during lane reversal in the event of evacuation of Tidewater and Hampton Roads. VDOT and the Hampton Roads Planning Commission have no plans to address EMS or Fire vehicles at this time except to say that they will be merged into the flow of traffic and move along as fast as possible if an emergency should occur during the evacuation procedure. Sue also passed out new regional traffic operations center map for VDOT. These are to update what used to be called the “Smart Traffic Centers”. There will be five regions, Northern, Northwestern, Central, Eastern, and Southwestern.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for Children –

No report, however, Winnie did report that Petra did have her baby and it was a girl, but did not have any other information at this time.

EMS Councils –

Melinda reported on the EMS Forum where they brought in speakers from New Orleans and London. Each presented very moving and compelling stories about response to Katrina and the London bombings. The councils will sponsor these presenters to Symposium in November. Melinda also reported that NOVA EMS is working with MMRS teams that are forming there and EMS and Health Department workers attended a meeting last week to review the pharmaceutical cache to make sure they had everything needed. A major goal will be to identify what EMS has at this time. Health Department will also have to be educated on protocols and abilities of EMS in the field. There will be further meetings planned.

Councils are continuing Pan Flu planning. NoVA EMS has information to assist on planning. For NoVA EMS the planning commission will put all final plans on their website.

NoVA is finally on WebEOC with Hospitals. Switch was made on July 1. Dispatch centers have been trained. However, EMS did not know about the switch so she advises that EMS councils make sure they are talking to their Health Departments and Hospitals as this evolves.

VHHA –

Order for TamaFlu may get processed some time this year. Any mass order now has to go through HHS process. It will be for to use for hospital personnel and their families. Left over HRSA funds are being used to develop cache of ventilator s for hospitals that will probably be dispersed regionally, also two oxygen generators and a trailer. Hospitals will be required to be NIMS compliant October 2007 not 2006, because guidelines for hospital compliance have not been completed. HICS will not be available to hospitals until September 2006. Also, NIMS training for hospitals will not be available until September. There is still some questions as to if hospital personnel will have to take the IS 100, 700, etc in addition the hospital specific training and how high up the chain of command the training has to go. There will be a T-t-T for hospital personnel in October.

Steve invited to Emmitsburg to attend NIMS Non-Governmental Organization/Private Industry Implementation Summit the last of July first of August. **He will report on this Summit at our next meeting.**

Old Business

Letters to absent and prospective members to the committee were approved and will be sent out by Winnie next week. Letters were sent to Captain Lemuel Terry, VSP; Deputy Chief Willie Howlett, Virginia Fire Chief's Association; Doug Young, VEMA; Richard "Chip" Decker, III, President, Virginia Ambulance Association; and Suzanne Simmons, Manager, Virginia Volunteer Coordination, Program.

In response to Mike's concern about how regions and localities could better work with their RHCCs, Steve Ennis has agreed to give a presentation about the RHCC at the next meeting.

Sue reported on her findings for the Tidewater Evacuation Plan during her report.

New Business/Discussion

Additional Comments of the evacuation Plan for Tidewater and the Peninsula:

Mike Player voiced the concern of EMS/Fire access as something that will be a huge problem during evacuation of Tidewater and the Peninsula due to traffic 'choke points'. Sue said that there will be roving patrols to look for motorist in distress and possibly shelters of last resort, but she was not sure how those plans were to go. All agreed that access will be a big issue as traffic becomes great and lanes become less when HOV access ends. Sue advised that access from Rts. 460, 143 and 17 should still be open depending on traffic flow and how many people choose to take those routes which will not be restricted to public safety.

Mike Player reported that the Peninsula is looking to contract with private facilities like churches and other public buildings as facilities of last resort incase cars are on the road when winds or rain becomes too dangerous for evacuees to go on. Facilities will have no staff or provisions, but will hopefully be a protected place for citizens.

Terry Herbert asked if VDOT had done any study to determine how long it would take someone at the height of evacuation to get from the Hampton Tunnel to I-295. Sue said not to her knowledge but it will depend on how many people leave, how much the local government support the evacuation and how fast the traffic flow is during the evacuation.

Winnie suggested that this committee encourage the support of National Preparedness Month in September. VDOT will be supporting it internally for Central Office and will be putting different things on their web site for their employees. Other committee members agreed to support it as they could. Melinda asked if there was something that specifically addressed readiness for EMS. Winnie told her that she was actually working on that for Symposium.

Steve questioned having so much focus on Tidewater during Hurricane evacuation planning when the biggest loss of life occurred during Hurricane Camile in Nelson County. There needs to be more focus on critical infrastructure protections including hospitals which are private entities. Steve told the committee that as far as hospitals are concerned, shelter in place in a well protected hospital is far superior to putting patients on the road, and hospitals in New Orleans that had good plans and sheltered in place were able to remain in business and rebuild as opposed to those who closed their doors and evacuated. Most of those have become bankrupted and/or go out of business. He asked that it be brought to the attention of the state through the state departments represented at the meeting that hospitals cannot be considered critical infrastructure for planning and private entities when it comes to receiving money to be prepared to support that infrastructure. Steve also requested clarification on how information flows when ESF-8 is activated.

Following Melinda's report on WebEOC status in NoVA there was a discussion on WebEOC and who should use the hospital information for making decisions, **the committee asked Steve Ennis to give a presentation on the Hospital part of WebEOC. He will coordinate.**

Next Scheduled Meeting

Meeting Schedule for the remainder of 2006 is as follows:

September 21

November 16

All meetings are from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (unless noted) at "The Place" at Innsbrook, Richmond, Va. the exact room will be announced before the meeting. All meetings include lunch.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM